



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



HUSSEIN PROFITS FROM SMUGGLED OIL

By Anwar Faruqi, Associated Press

Smugglers are shipping more and more Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions, reaping profits and lining the pockets of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the U.S. Navy says. With oil prices high, the smugglers have grown bold, bringing the Iraqi leader about \$50 million a month.

The 4,000 tons of oil (equivalent to 29,320 barrels) seized from the Volga-Neft-147 is only a fraction of the quantity getting through, said Cmdr. Jeff Gradeck, spokesman for the Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet.

In January, when oil prices hit nine-year highs of about \$28 a barrel, 367,000 tons (2.7 million barrels) of Iraqi oil were smuggled out, according to Navy estimates. Last September, when prices were about \$19 a barrel, 191,000 tons were smuggled out, Gradeck said.

Iraq is banned from most inter-

national commerce because of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to the Persian Gulf war. Under a U.N. resolution, the Iraqis are allowed to sell up to \$5.2 billion worth of oil every six months, provided the revenue is used to purchase food, medical supplies and spare parts to rebuild its oil industry.

Iraq has long denied that oil smuggling takes place in the Persian Gulf. It maintains that the United States scrutinizes gulf ships traveling to and from Iraq but does nothing to stop oil smuggling overland from northern Iraq into Turkey, a U.S. ally.

The United States says it has stepped up efforts to stop illegal oil exports from Iraq, but international law and coastal shoals keep deep-hulled U.S., British and other warships on sanctions patrol out of Iran's 12-mile-wide territorial waters.

WITNESS SAYS OFFICERS FIRED WITHOUT WARNING

By Jane Fritsch

A neighbor of Amadou Diallo's testified for the defense Wednesday that she heard someone say "Gun!" just before the four police officers accused of Diallo's murder began firing at him as he stood in the vestibule of his apartment building.

It was testimony that the lawyers for the police wanted, but it came at a price. The woman, Schrie

Elliott, said on cross-examination that she saw the four officers get out of their car with their guns drawn and, without shouting any warnings, begin firing at Diallo.

"And he fell down immediately?" asked Donald Levin, a prosecutor.

"Yes," Elliott said.

"And they continued shooting when he was down?" he asked.

"Yes," she replied with a sob.

COMPUTER VANDALS

ATTACKS ON WEB SITES CONTINUE
By Matt Richtel with Joel Brinkley

As assaults on major Web sites continued Wednesday, computer vandals crippled a large online brokerage operation (ETrade) and a media site (Zdnet.com). The Justice Department pledged to find those responsible, but computer experts questioned whether any defenses can easily be deployed against the attacks.

Security experts say the attacks appear to have been weeks or months in the planning, since they require clandestinely loading software onto dozens, if not hundreds of computers around the Internet. When those programs were activated this week, the host computers were transformed into platforms for starting the attacks.

In almost all cases, experts say, the owners of the computers never knew that their machines had become cogs in the attack machinery. Reno said the FBI had opened a criminal investigation, but she acknowledged that they had no strong leads.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

JOC(SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

JOL(SW) Robert W. Garand, Editor

DMI(SW) Dale Christison, Graphic Design

LJL Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop

JO3 Laura Wiggins, Staff

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CAMPAIGN 2000

FORBES REGRETS NOT WINNING
By Associated Press

Republican Steve Forbes says his only regret in his failed bid for the presidency is not winning. He told NBC news he thinks his candidacy helped "change the agenda in America."

Forbes spent more than 66 million dollars of his own money but failed to capture the votes necessary to stay in the race.

The conservative is calling it quits after third-place finishes in the New Hampshire and Delaware primaries. Advisers say the formal announcement will be made Thursday.

His departure has set off a scramble among the remaining GOP contenders for his anti-abortion, anti-tax supporters on the conservative right. It also set the stage for a two-way race between George W. Bush and John McCain.

* SATURDAY SITE TV SCHEDULE *

CHANNEL 2

1100 NEW DETECTIVE

1630 SUBMARINES: SHARKS OF STEEL

1730 7TH HEAVEN

1830 SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

2000 THE NAKED AND THE DEAD

2210 BLACK SCORPION II

CHANNEL 6

1100 STRIPES

1630 BELOVED

1930 BLUE STREAK

2100 MONEY TALKS

2230 DANGEROUS GROUND

N A T I O N A L / I N T E R N A T I O N A L N E W S

REBELS AMBUSH MILITARY TRAIN

By Associated Press

Rebels ambushed a military train in a Russian-controlled region of Chechnya, the Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday. A ministry spokesman refused to give more details, but Russian news agencies reported that federal forces drove back the militants after hours of fierce fighting. No casualty figures were reported for either side.

The train, which was being used to repair railroad tracks north of the capital Grozny, was crippled Tuesday near the town of Argon when rebels detonated three remote-controlled mines under its locomotive and opened fire from four directions, the ITAR-Tass news agency said. The attack was reported only Thursday.

A second train sent to back up the first also was damaged when the rebels launched rocket-propelled grenades at its engine. The attackers retreated after Russian Special Forces arrived, according to the Interfax news agency.

HIJACKING FINALLY OVER

By Associated Press

The hijacking in England is over. All of the roughly 150 passengers have been freed from the Afghanistan airliner hijacked early Sunday. The nearly four-day-old crisis ended early Thursday when the last of the hostages left the Ariana Airlines plane, their hands in the air. Two hours earlier, about 85 men, women and children walked down the plane's staircase to freedom.

Police spokesman Joe Edwards told an early morning news briefing that the freed hostages would be taken to a safe place for medical checkups.

DOWN DAY FOR WALL STREET

By Robert D. Hershey Jr.

Stocks fell sharply across a broad front Wednesday as technology issues that have been strong all month buckled in heavy trading.

As a result, the NASDAQ composite index, which had posted seven straight gains, and the Dow Jones industrial average lost ground in the same session for the first time since Jan. 28.

Stocks were weighed down by various factors, including rising interest rates, word that European antitrust authorities are investigating Microsoft and more attacks involving cyberspace.

The NASDAQ index ended with a loss of 64.26 points, or 1.5 percent, to 4,363.24. The Dow blue chips finished with a loss of 258.44 points, or 2.4 percent, to 10,699.16. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was down 30.02, or 2.08 percent, to 1,411.70.

The breadth of the day's decline was evident in the decline of 27 of the Dow's 30 stocks and 394 of those in the S&P 500.

STROHMEYER SENTENCED TO FOUR LIFE TERMS IN PRISON

By Associated Press

A judge has rejected a confessed child killer's bid to withdraw his guilty plea and go to trial.

Jeremy Strohmeyer had pleaded guilty to murdering seven-year-old Sherrice Iverson in the bathroom of a Nevada casino in 1998. He'd been sentenced to four life terms with no chance of parole.

Strohmeyer had been trying to withdraw his guilty plea, claiming his lawyers coerced him into the plea.

SPORTS

GRIFFEY GOES TO CINCINNATI

By Associated Press

It looks like Ken Griffey Junior may finally be on his way to Cincinnati. Baseball official Sandy Alderson tells the Associated Press that Seattle and Cincinnati have agreed on a tentative trade which would send the all-star center fielder to the Reds.

Alderson is the executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office. He confirms that a 72-hour window to work out a contract extension for Griffey has been granted. Alderson would not say what players are involved in the trade.

TOP 25 SCORES:

(23) MARYLAND	98	(3) DUKE	87
IOWA	67	(5) OHIO ST	64
(8) TENNESSEE	110	GEORGIA	83
(25) LSU	83	(9) AUBURN	68
MINNESOTA	77	(10) INDIANA	75
(13) CONNETICUT	87	BOSTON COLL	58
(17) IOWA ST	72	MISSOURI	62
(18) TEXAS	76	TEXAS TECH	60
(22) VANDERBILT	65	MISSISSIPPI ST	64

NBA SCORES:

INDIANA	113	BOSTON	104
PHILADELPHIA	92	NEW JERSEY	90
ATLANTA	116	HOUSTON	100
ORLANDO	107	WASHINGTON	96
MIAMI	115	GOLDEN STATE	100
CHARLOTTE	103	CLEVELAND	95
NY KNICKS	109	MILWAUKEE	103
DETROIT	115	TORONTO	108
SEATTLE	117	DALLAS	106
UTAH	113	CHICAGO	86
SAN ANTONIO	106	DENVER	97
PORTLAND	107	LA CLIPPERS	100
LA LAKERS	114	MINNESOTA	81

ROCKER HEARING CONTINUES

By Associated Press

The John Rocker hearing goes into its second day today. Management has one final witness scheduled to testify and then the union gets its chance to call its first witness. Yesterday commissioner Bud Selig gave over five hours of testimony explaining his suspension of the Atlanta Braves pitcher. Rocker was banned by Selig until May first for his inflammatory comments about gays, minorities and foreigners in a recent sports illustrated article. Rocker is seeking to have the suspension overturned.

NEW SURFACE WARRIORS



Captain Douglas Keith stands with newly pinned ESWS personnel ET2 Richard Vogel, ET2 Chris Swartz, and IS3 Caleb Hudson. (Photo by PH3 Timothy Comerford).

NHL SCORES:

PHILADELPHIA	4	TORONTO	2
FLORIDA	4	SAN JOSE	1
NEW JERSEY	4	NY RANGERS	1
PITTSBURGH	5	ATLANTA	2
LOS ANGELES	5	PHOENIX	2
DALLAS	5	ANAHEIM	3
VANCOUVER	4	CALGARY	3